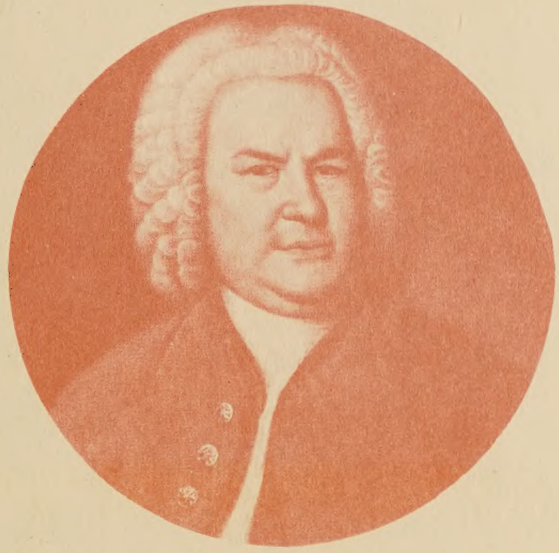
BACH
FOR BEGINNERS



JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
1685—1750

Edited by

Charles Vincent

Book 1

Boosey & Hawkes

PREFACE.

For many years the study and practice of the works composed by John Sebastian Bach have been considered indispensable to all Pianists and Organists, but only in a few instances have attempts been made to introduce, to absolute beginners, the educational advantages to be derived from a study of the works of this great musician and teacher.

Bach took great delight in the musical education of his own family. When his eldest son W. Friedemann was 9 years old the father gave him lessons and wrote for him the "Little Clavier Book"; later we read of him giving lessons to his second wife Anna Magdalene, who became her husband's diligent pupil in Clavier-playing. Together they kept a musical note book in which were written her favourite pieces, also the various studies and airs the husband composed for her to practise.

A careful perusal of this "Note Book" has suggested the compilation of a series of graded material for beginners, the first book to be selected entirely from this very interesting "Note Book."

Bach had seven children by his first wife and thirteen by his second, so Anna Magdalene must have had much to occupy her time besides studying the lessons her husband composed for her, yet it is recorded that she was musically of the greatest possible help to him. She had a beautiful voice and many of his finest songs were written for her. She was 21 years of age when they were married. Dec. 3rd 1721.

Charles Vincent.

BACH FOR BEGINNERS

ANNA MAGDALENE'S NOTE BOOK.

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Selected Phrased and Fingered by
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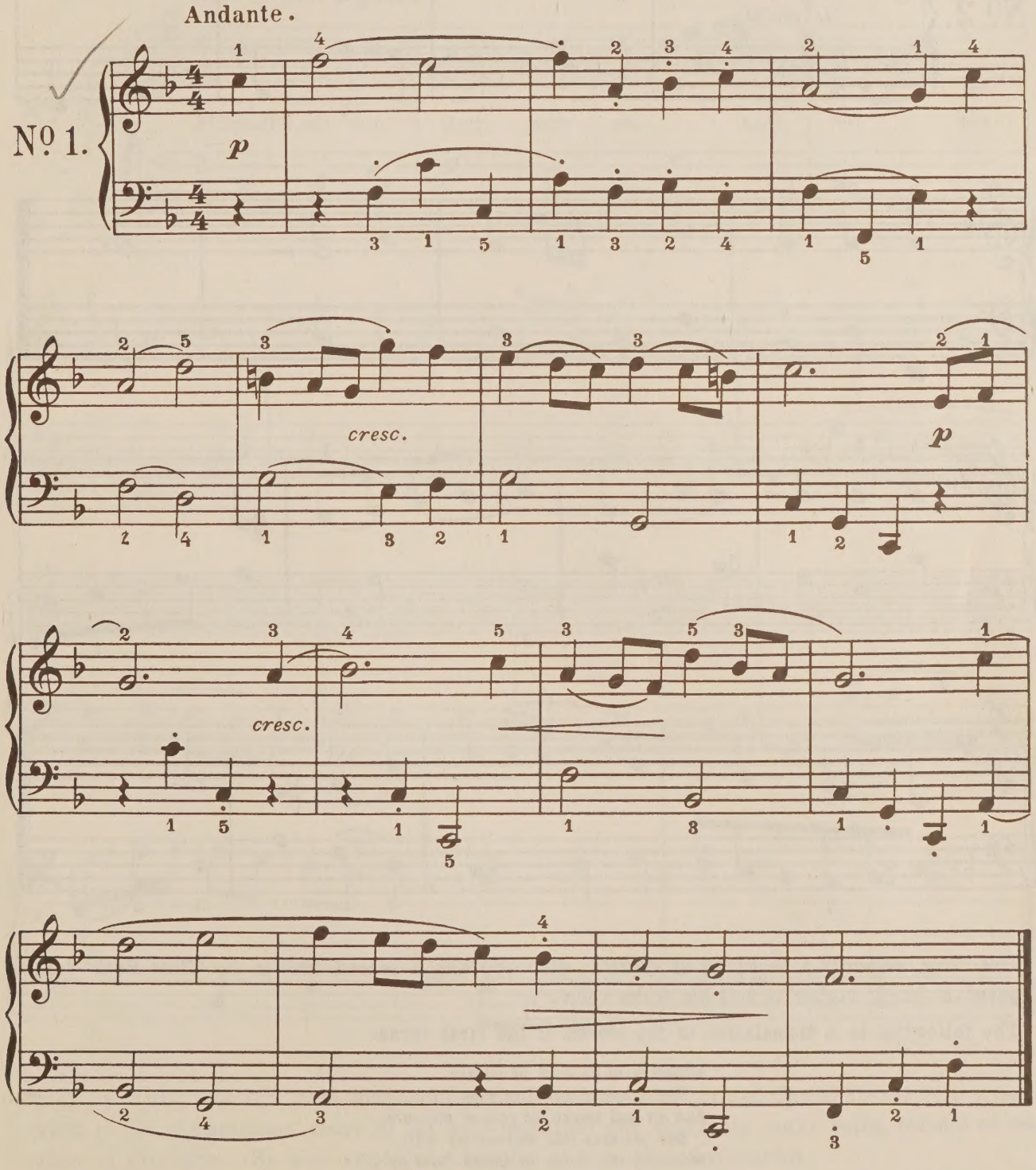
Andante.



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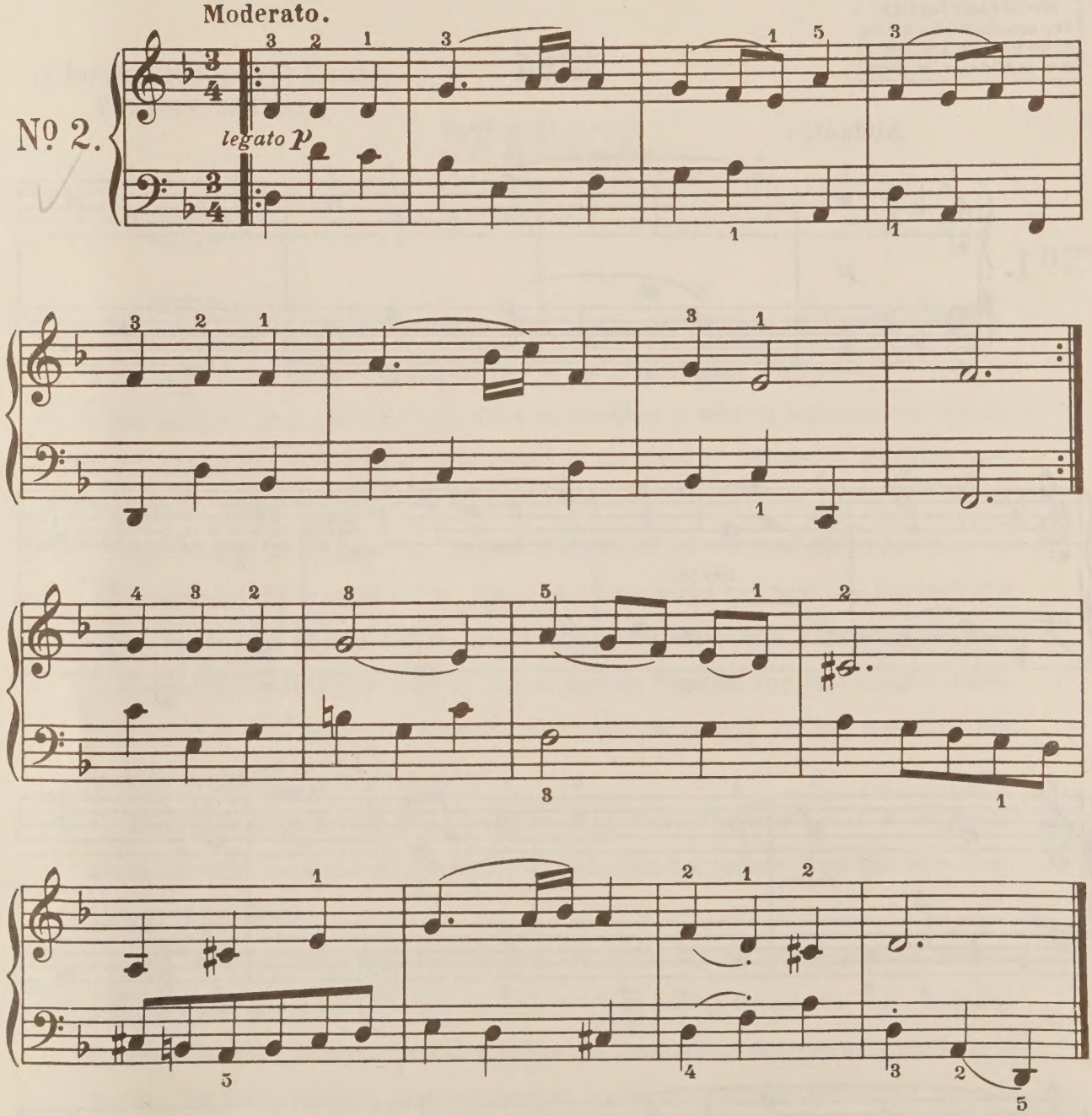
The Smoker's reflections.

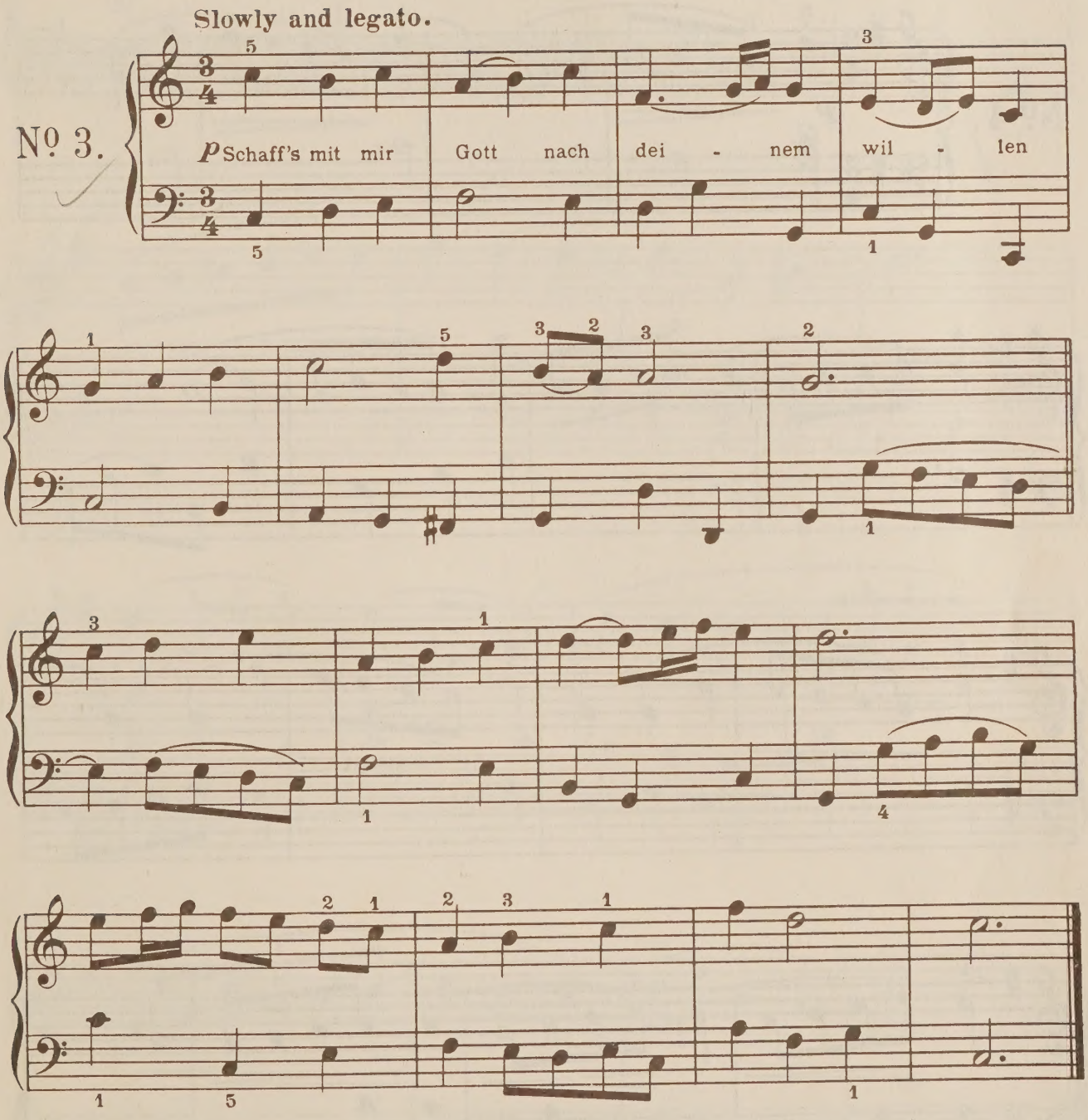


This song, evidently a favourite of Bach's, also appears a second time in the "Note Book" transposed a fourth higher to suit his wife's voice.

The following is a translation of the words of the first verse.

Whenever in an hour of leisure
With Knaster good my pipe I fill,
And sit and smoke for rest or pleasure,
Sad pictures rise without my will.
Watching the clouds of smoke float by
I think how like this pipe am I.

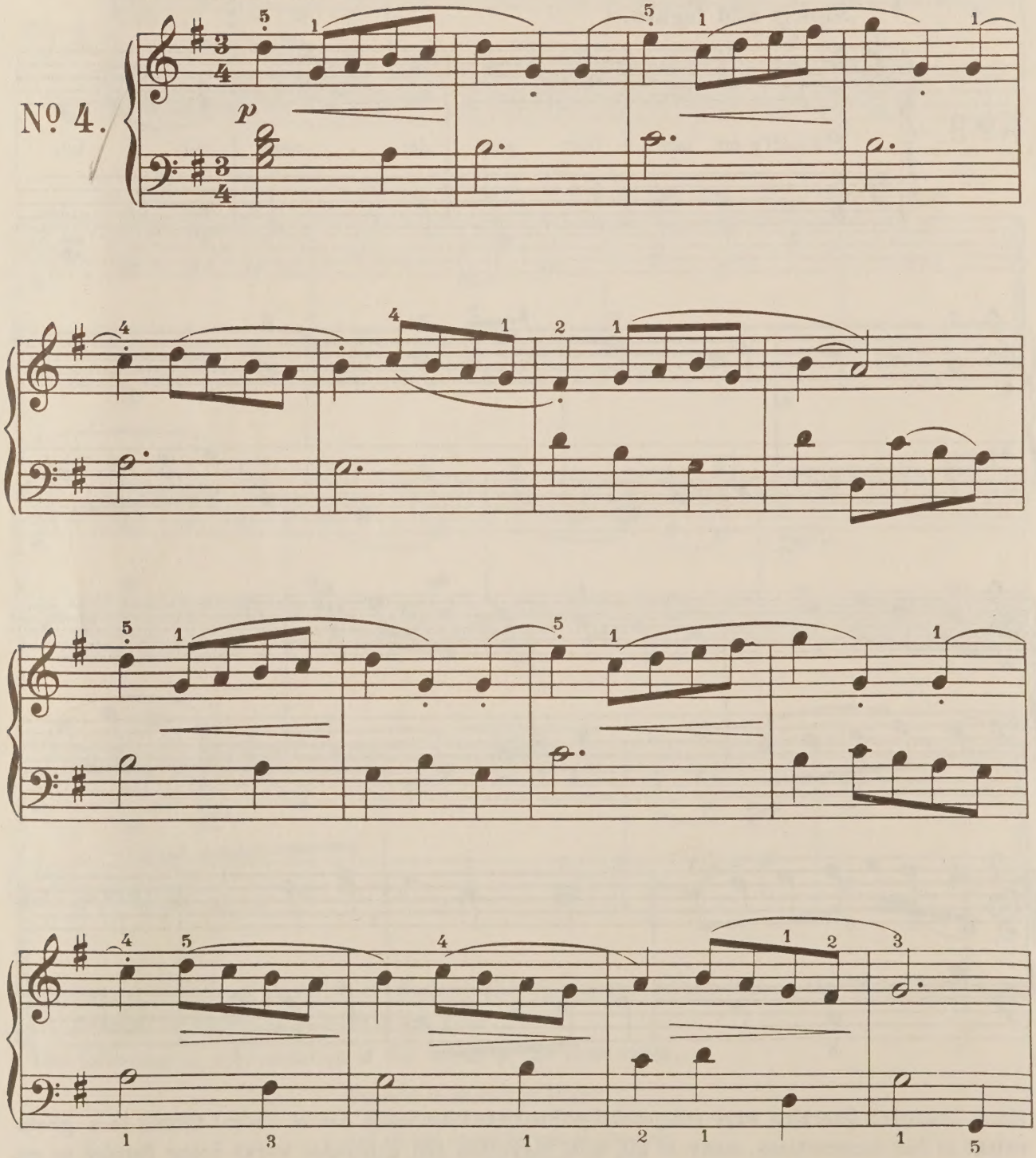
Chorale.

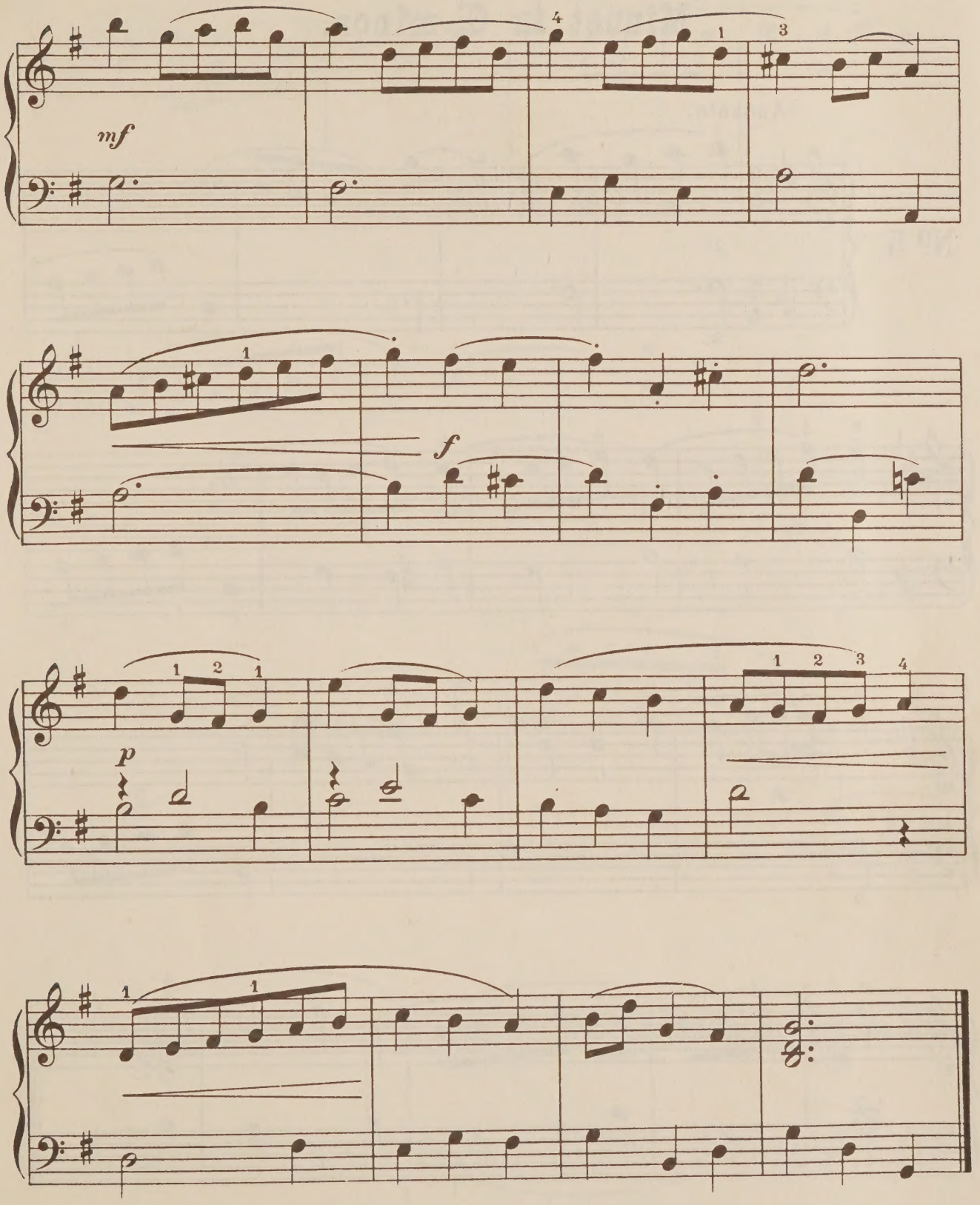


Many beautiful Chorales were composed by Bach, and he made use of Choral themes to a great extent in his compositions, many of his most ingenious and enjoyable works being founded on melodies of this type. He also employed Chorales as a means of education.

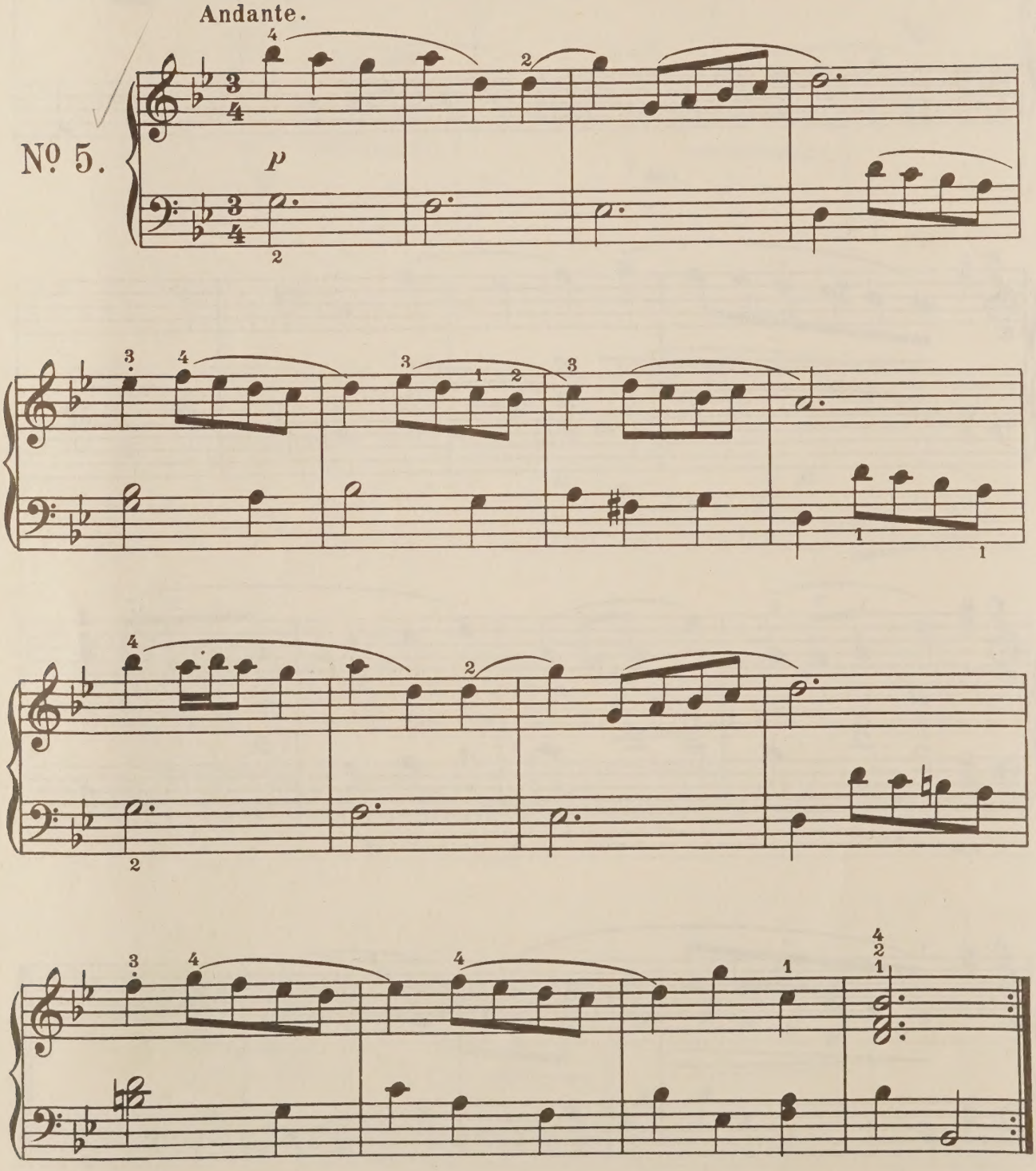
Minuet.

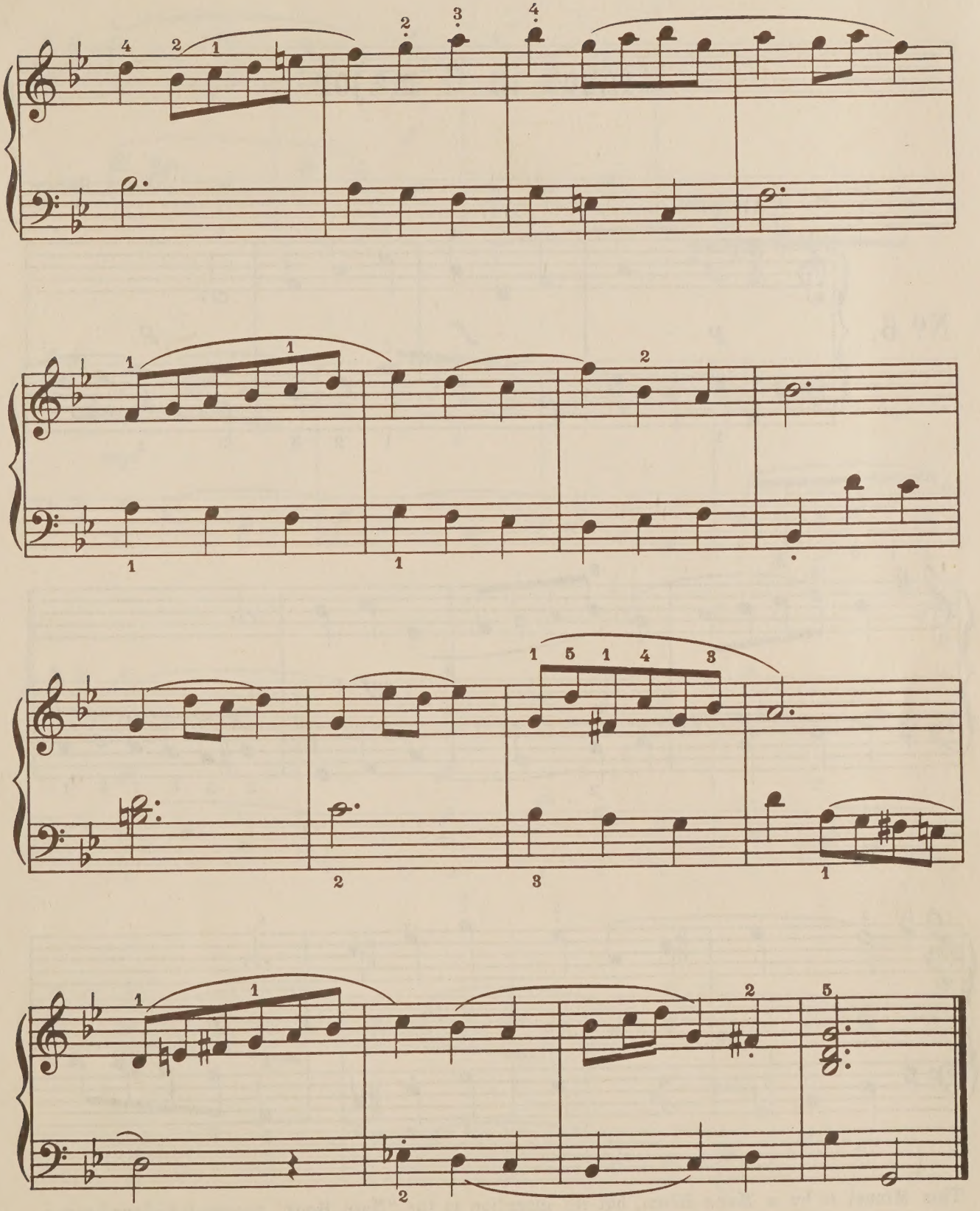
Moderato.




mf
f
p

Minuet in G minor.

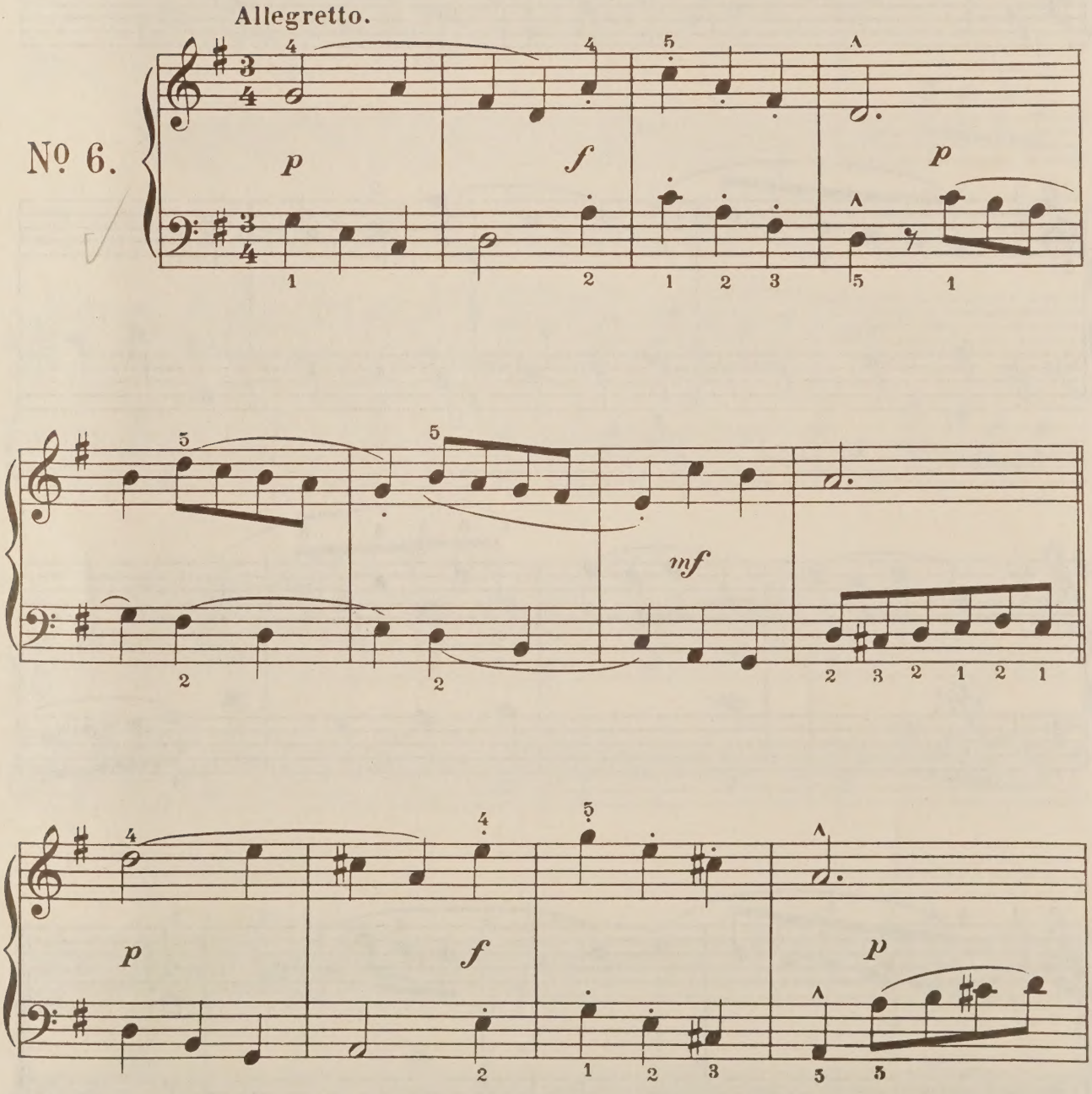




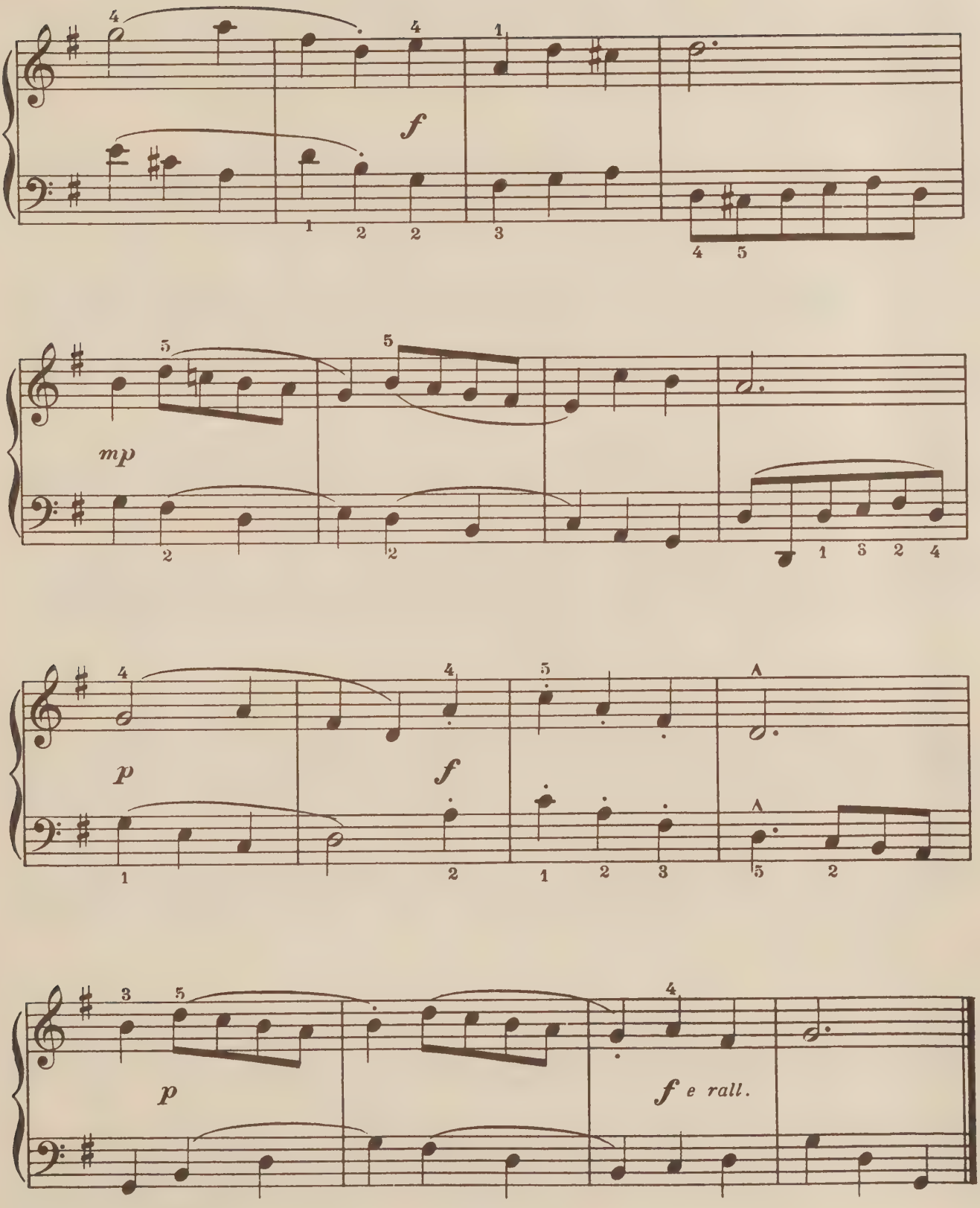
Minuet in G major.

Mons Böhm.

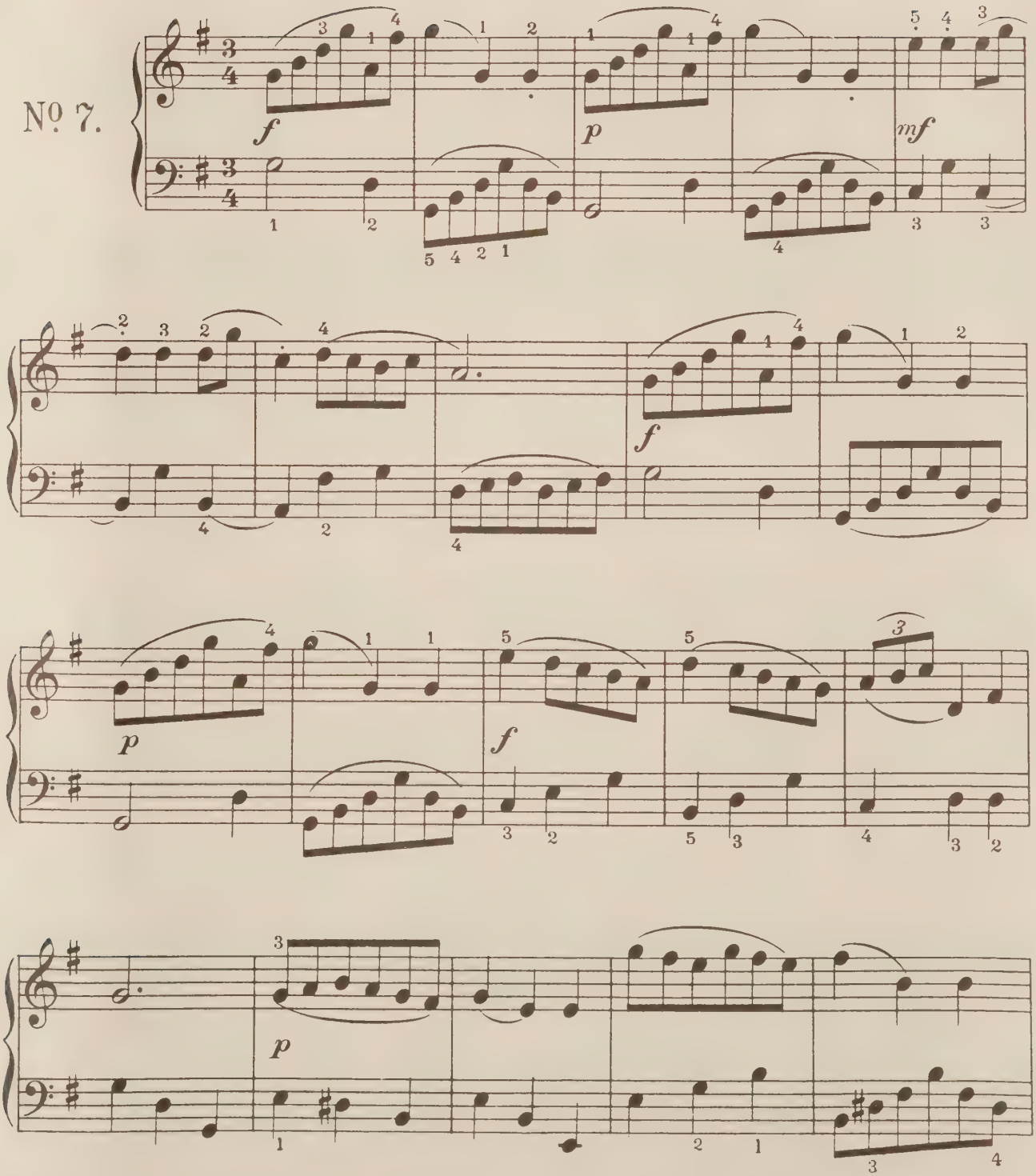
Nº 6.

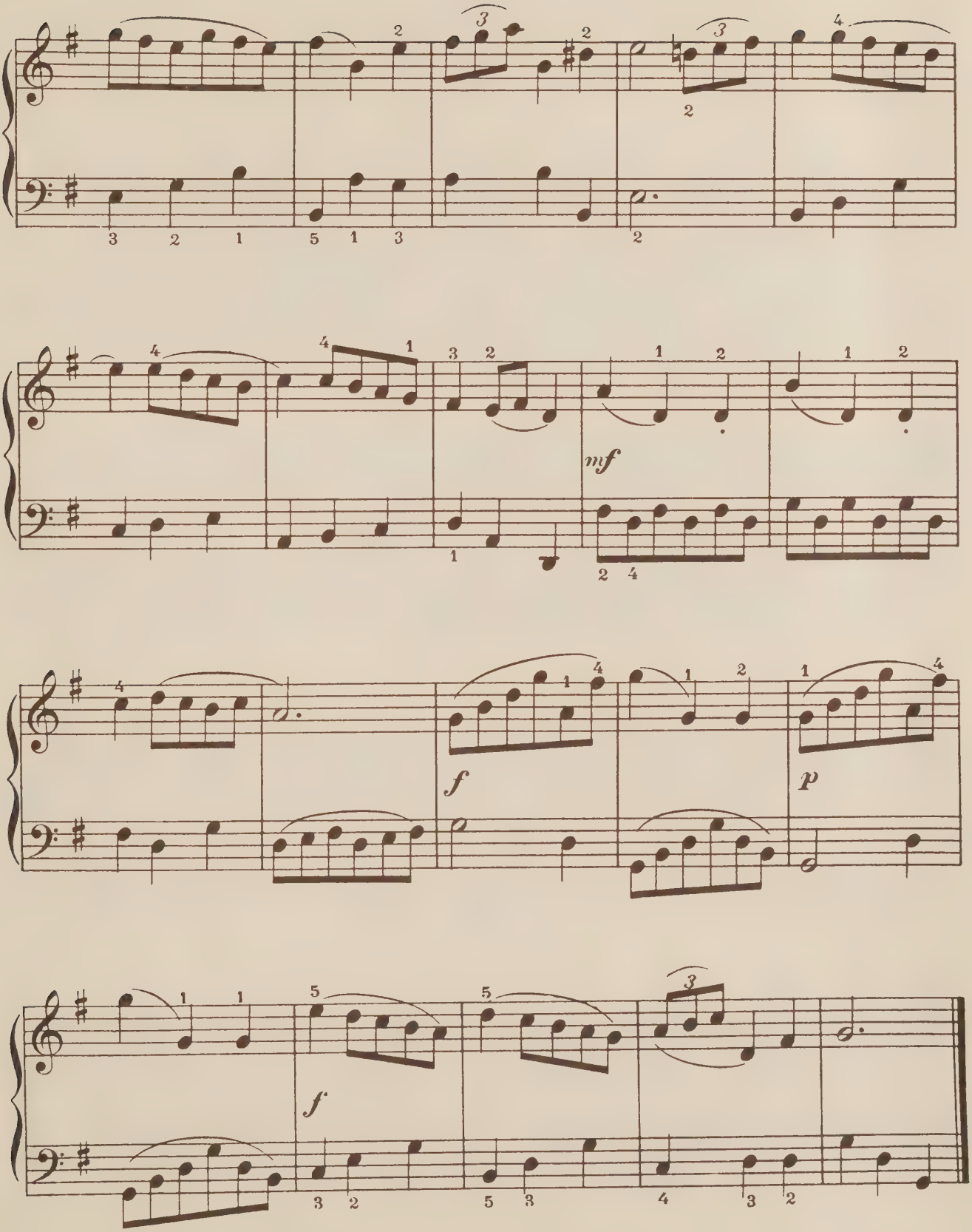


This Minuet is by a Mons Böhm, but its insertion in the "Note Book" proves it to have been a favourite with the Bachs, which is sufficient reason for its inclusion here.


f
mp
p
f
p
f e rall.

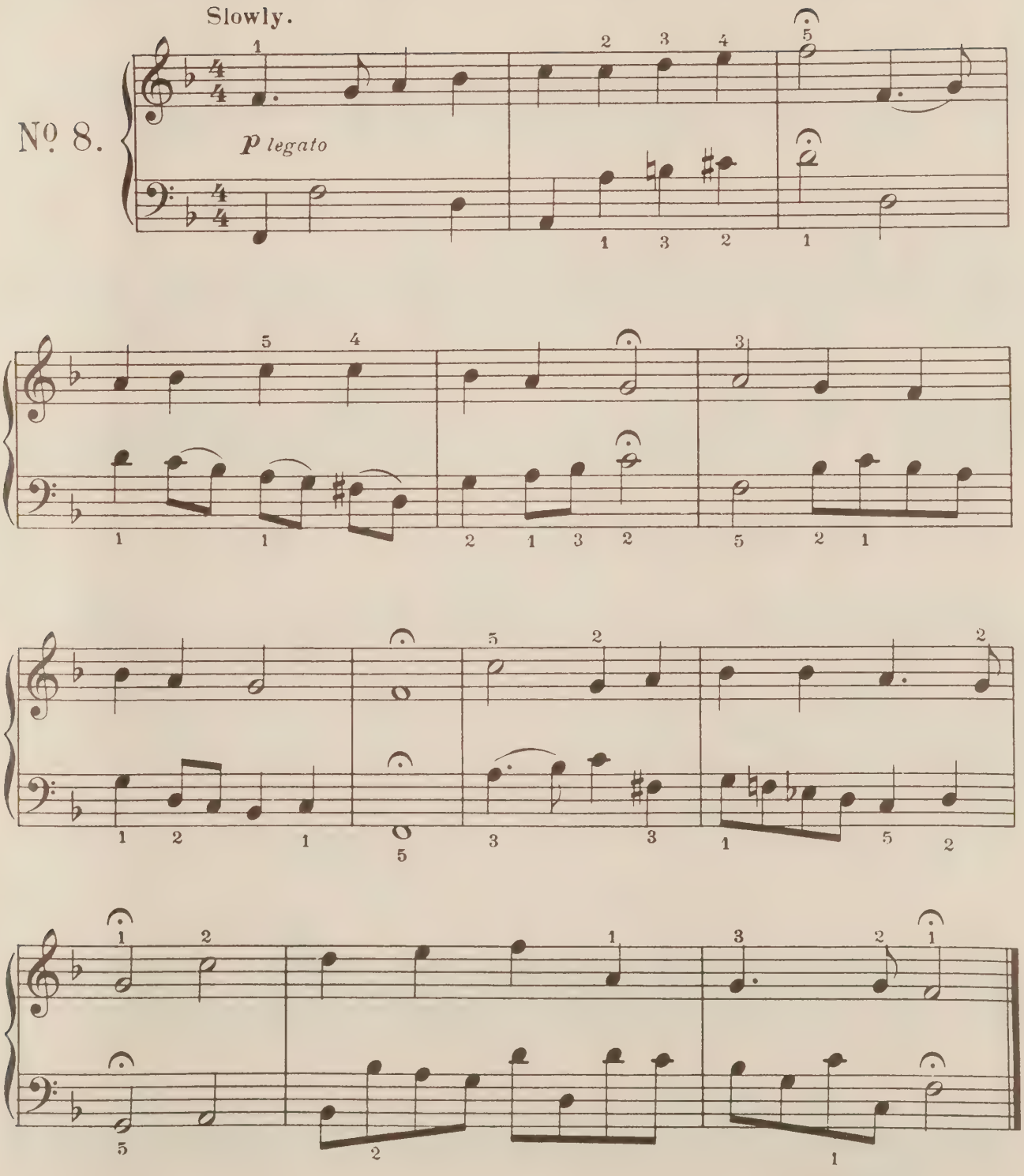
Minuet in G major.




mf
f
p
f

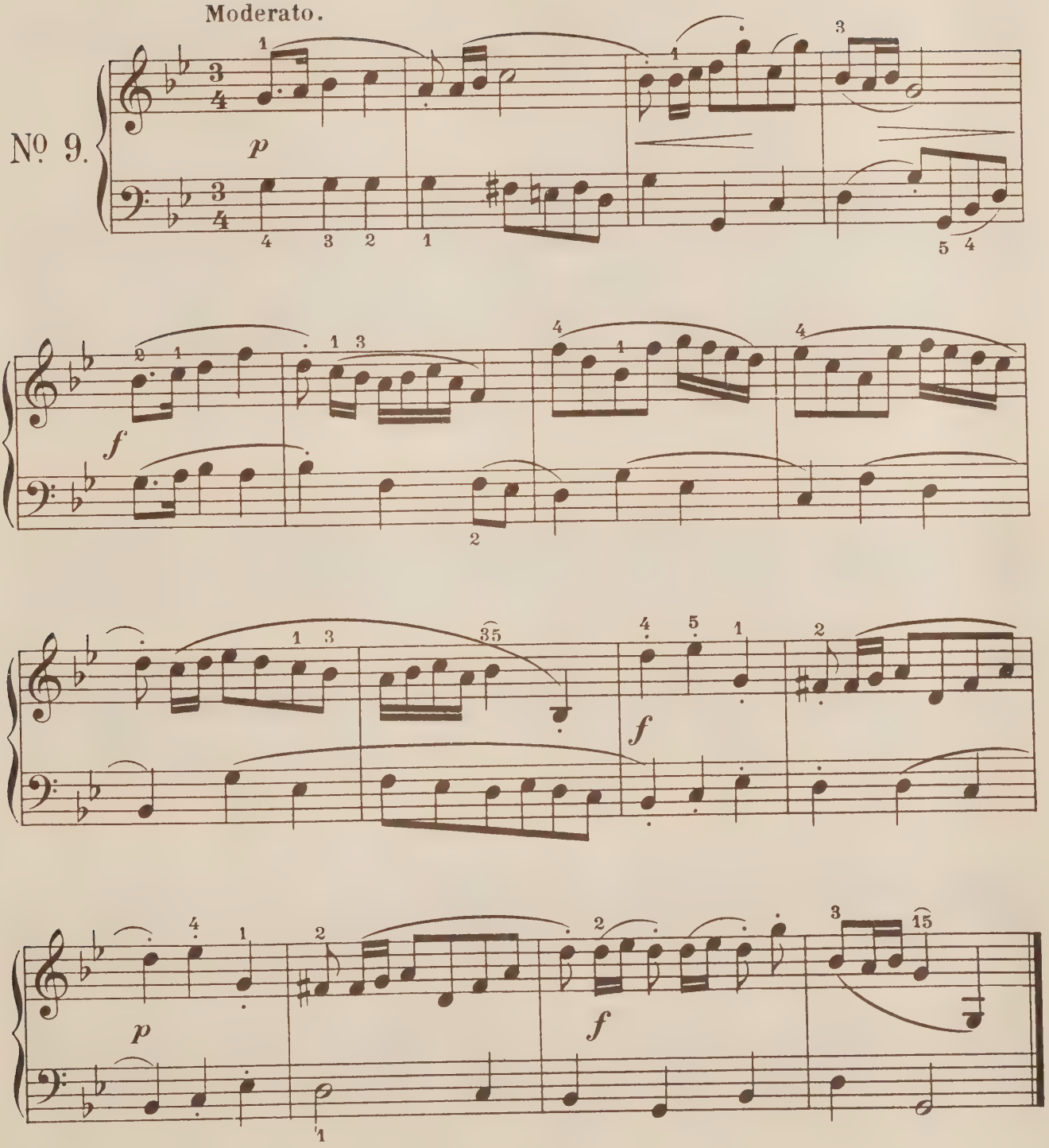
Chorale.

Eternity, O mighty word,

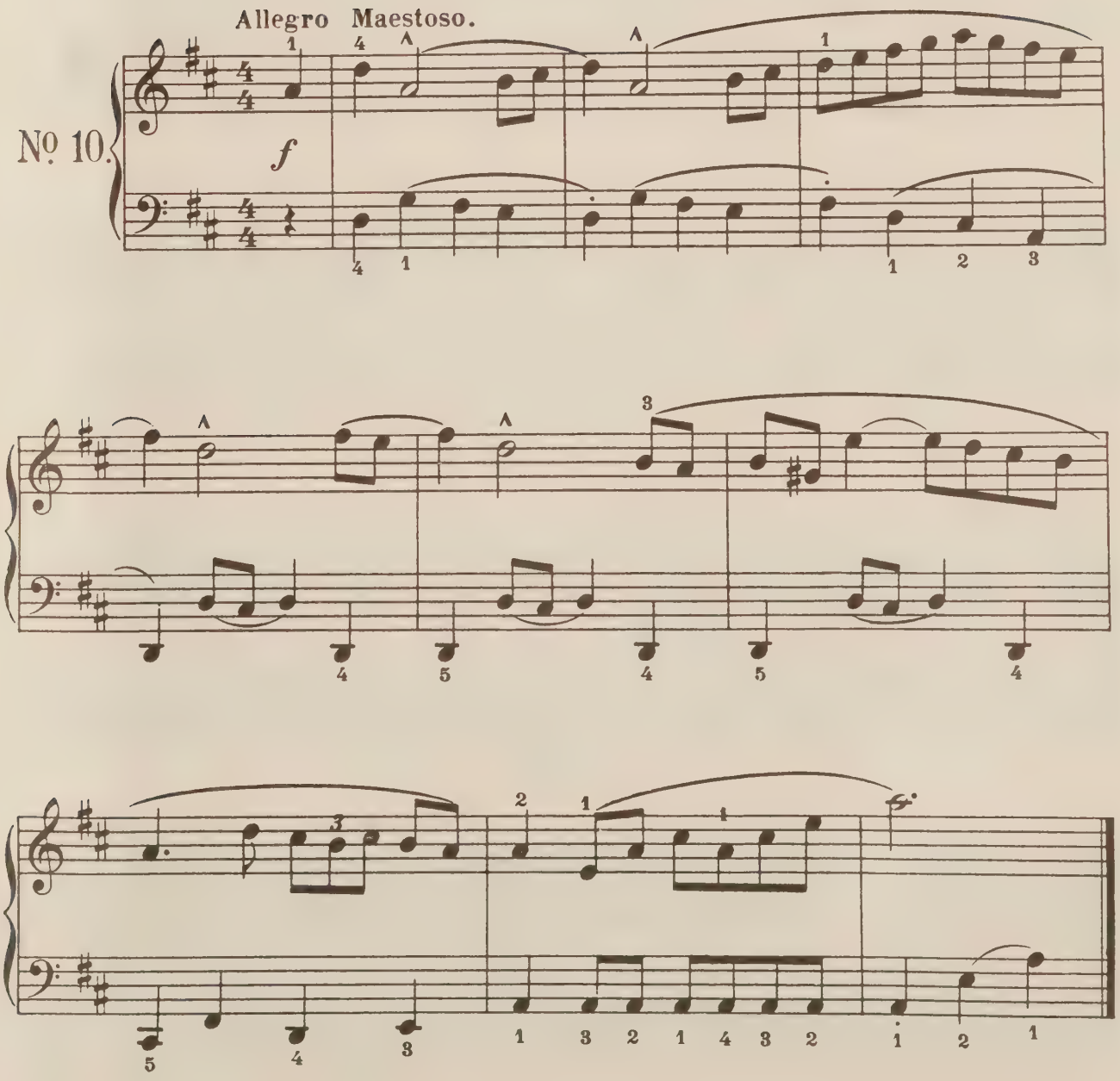


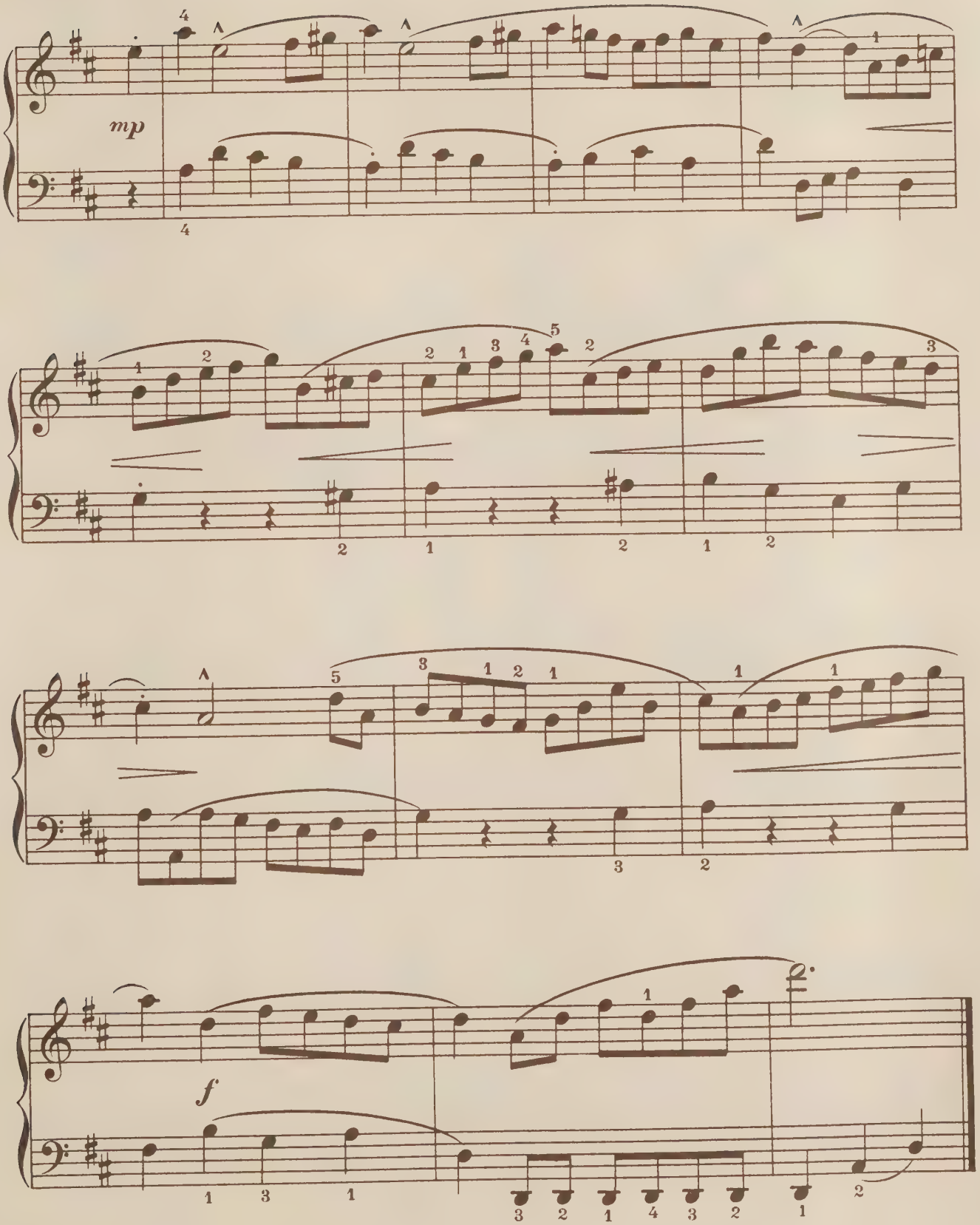
See note to Nº 3.

Polonaise.

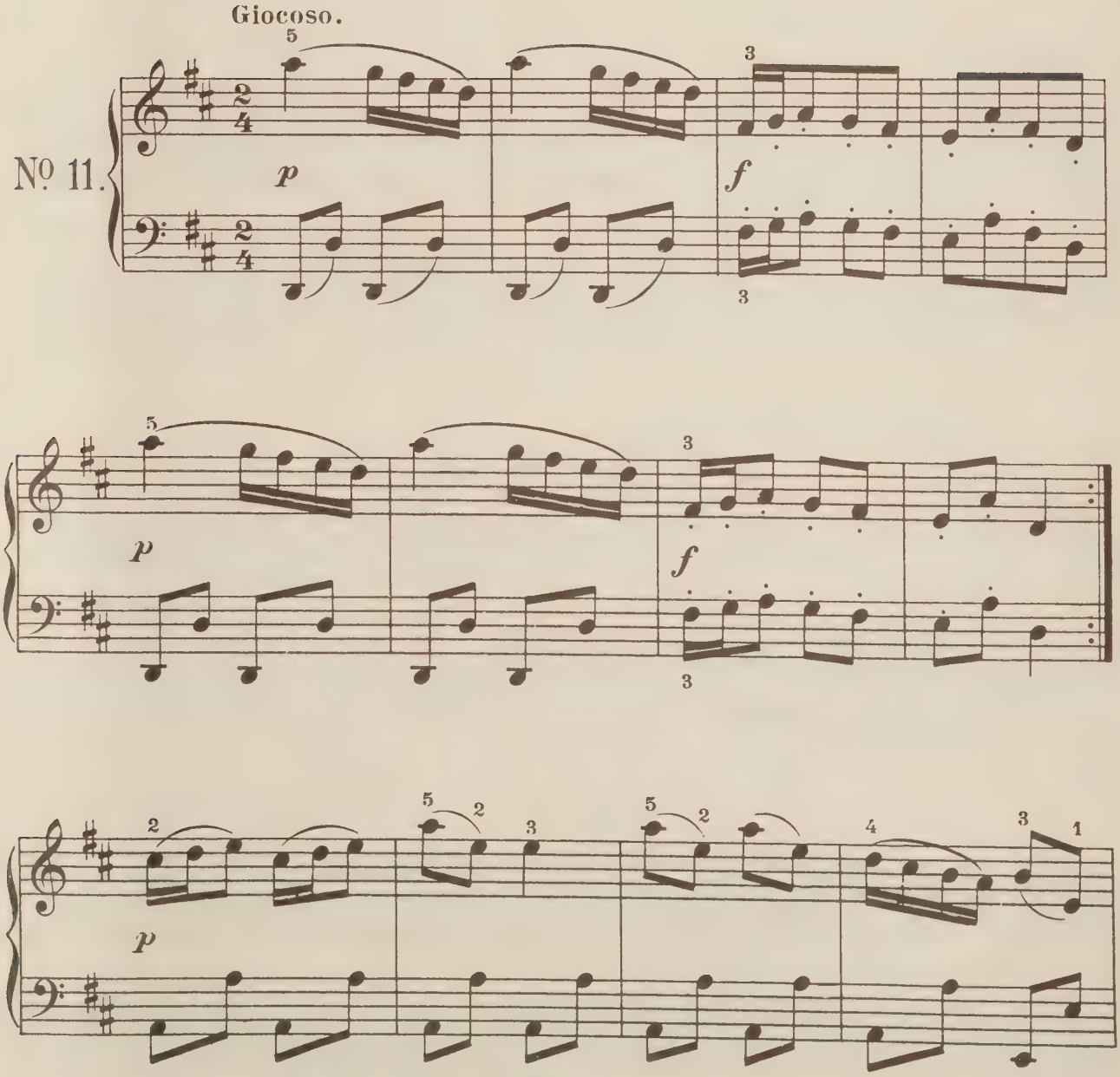


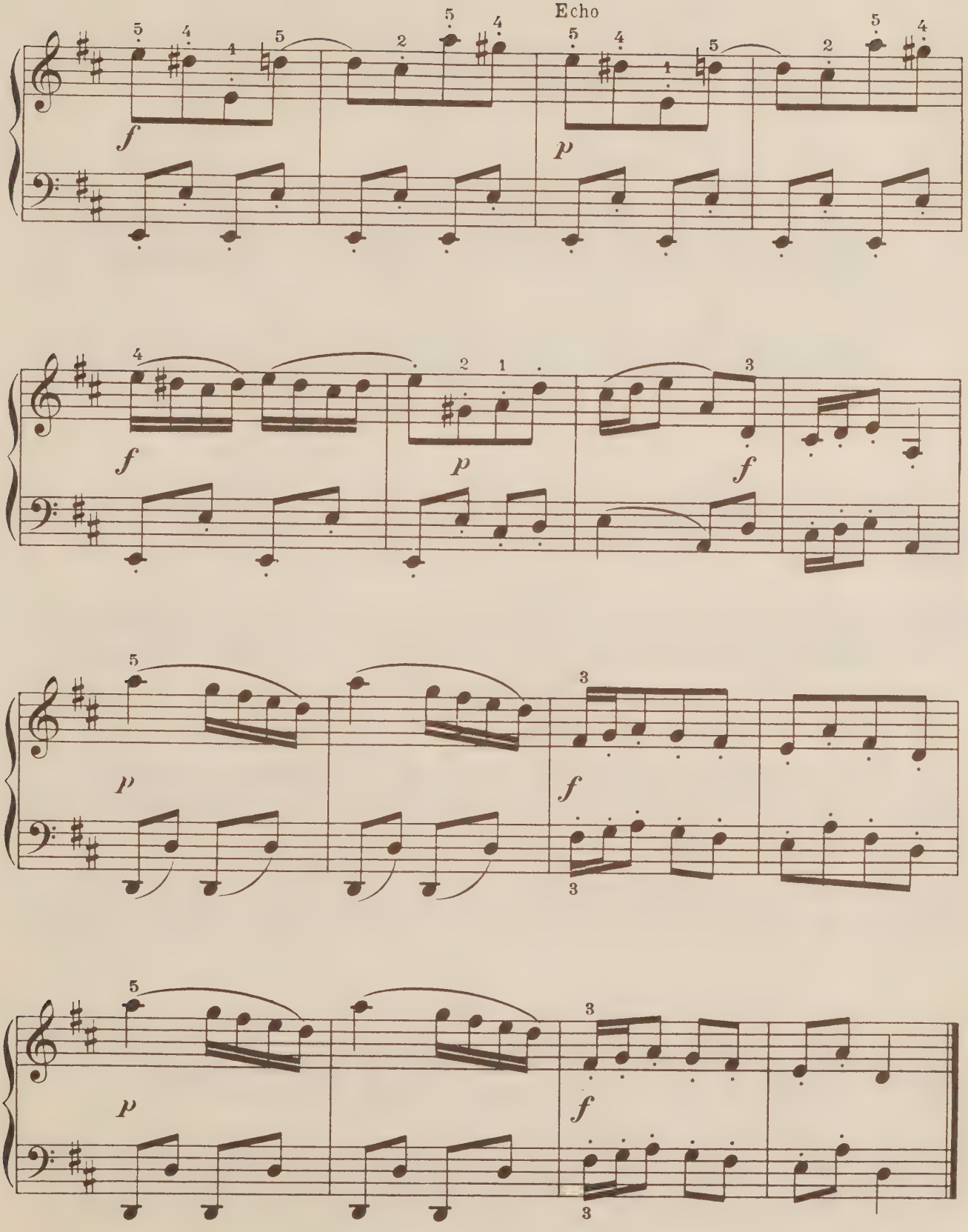
March in D major.



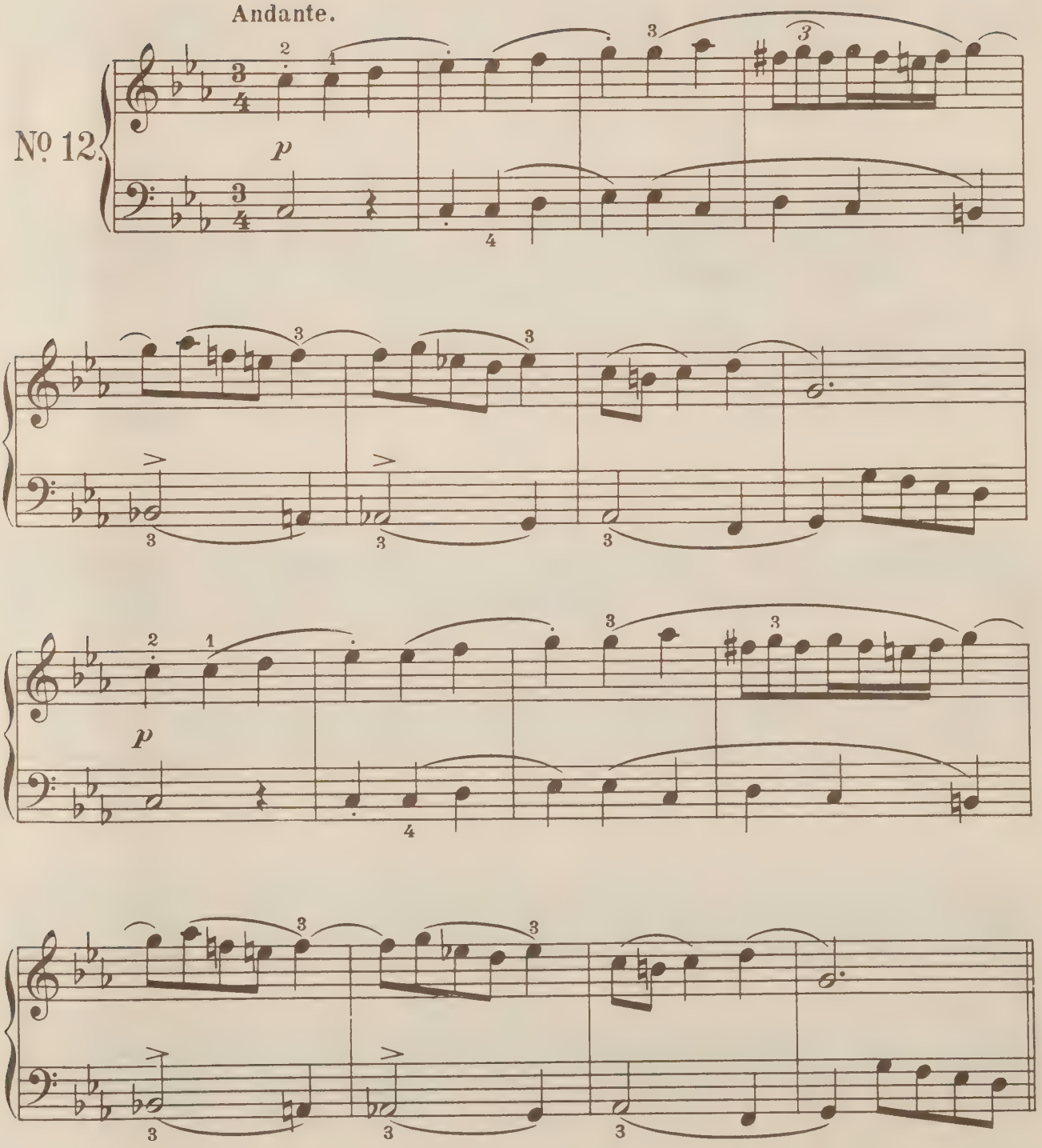

mp
f

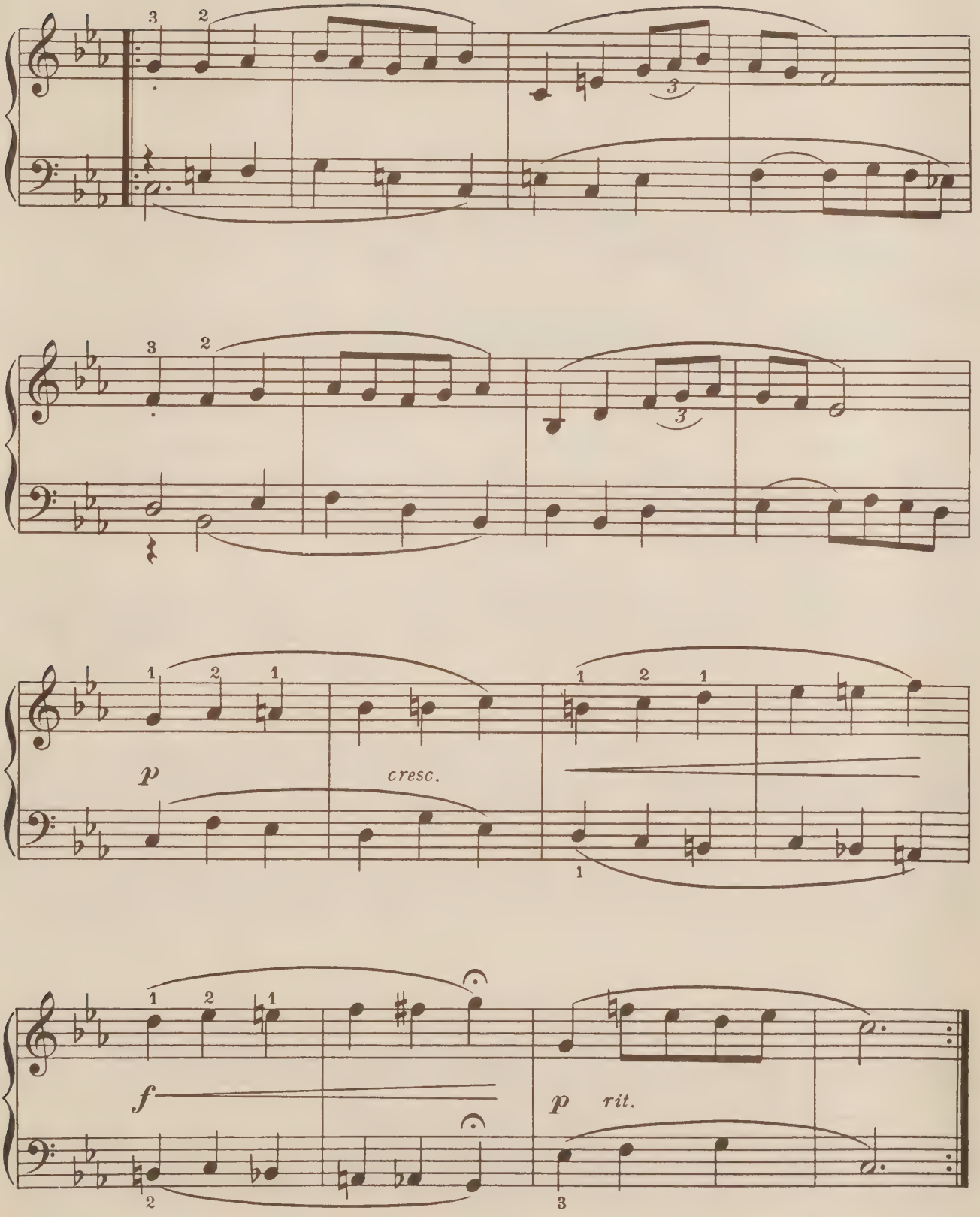
Musette.



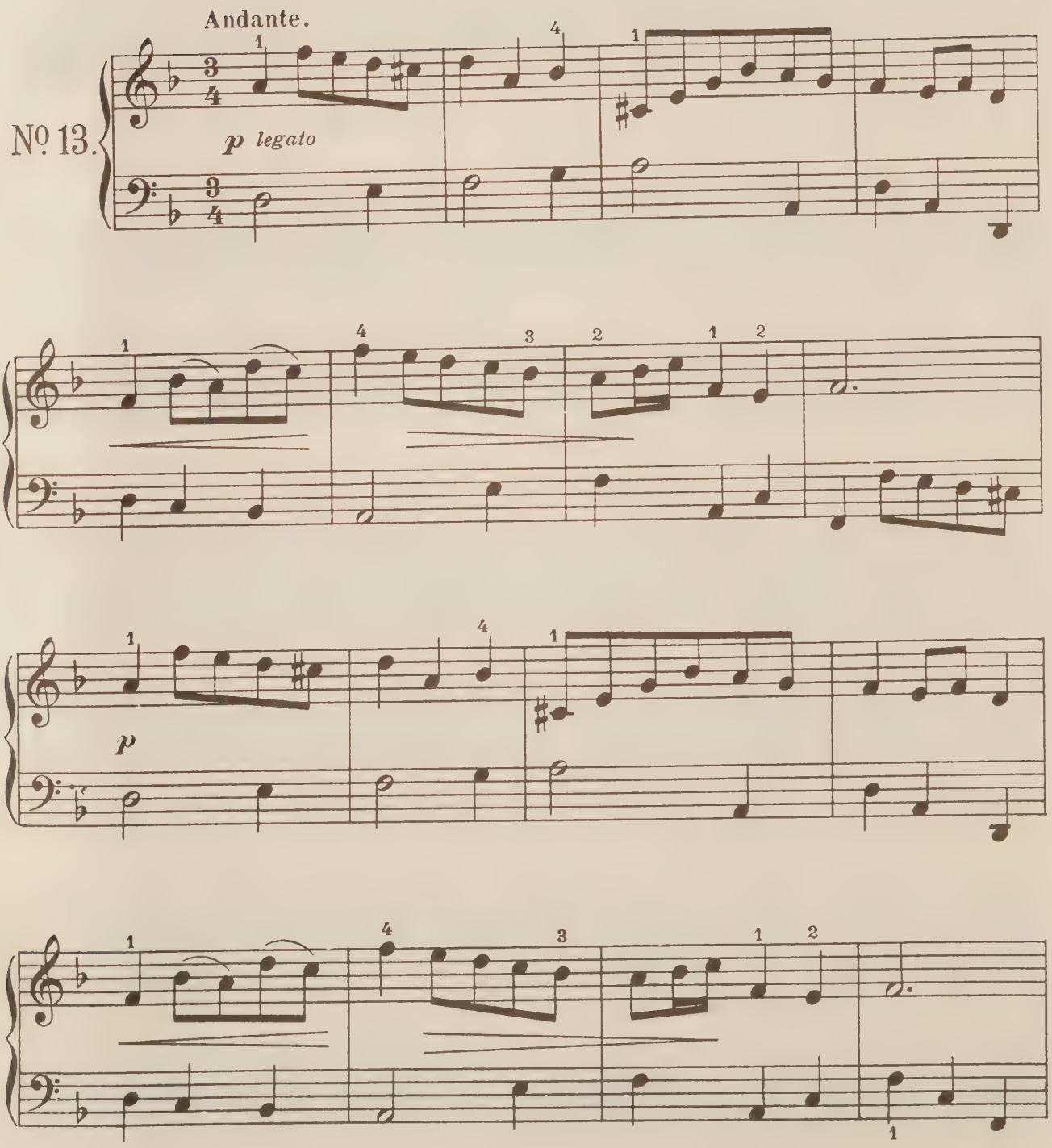

Echo
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f

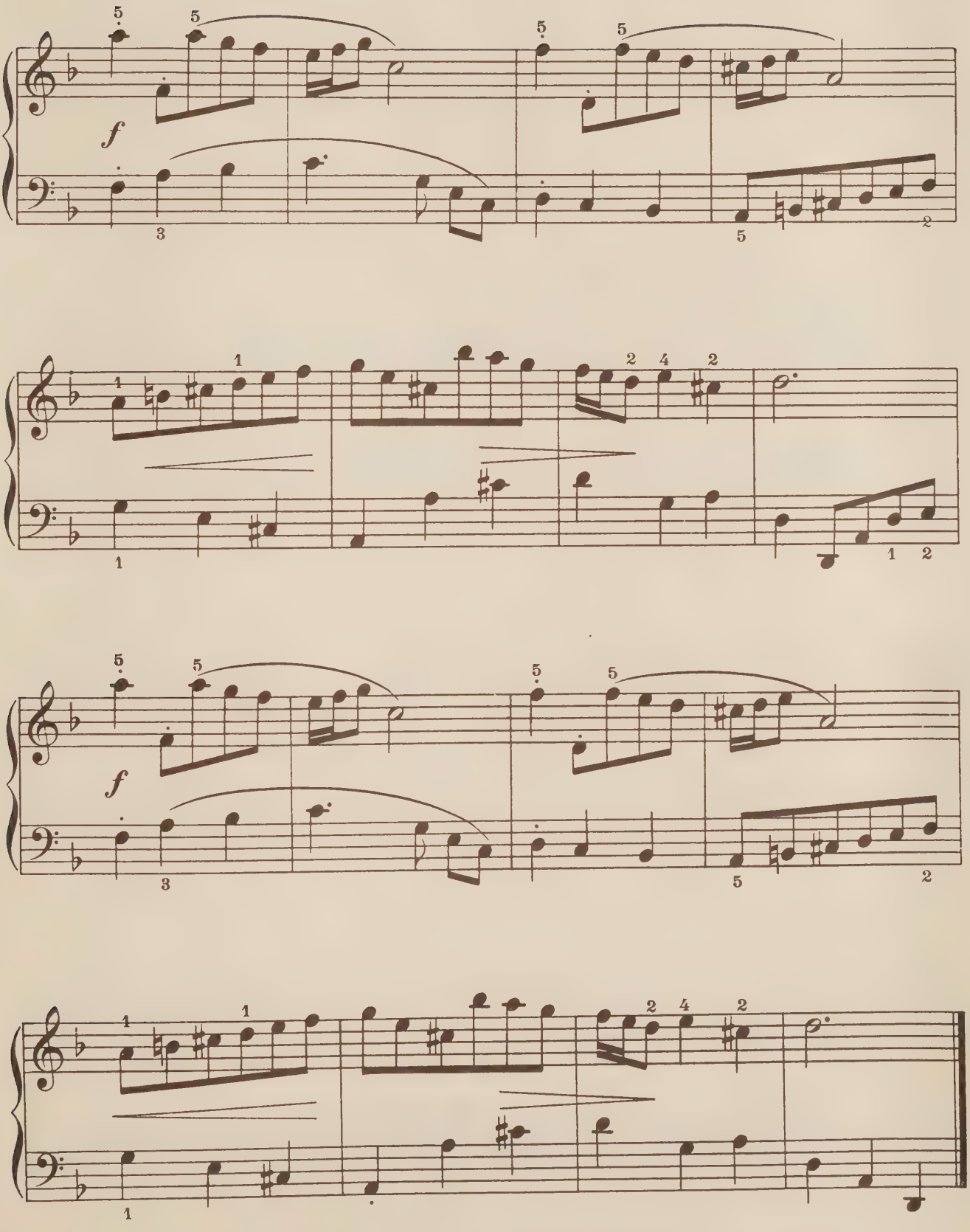
Minuet.




p
cresc.
f
p rit.

Minuet in D minor.

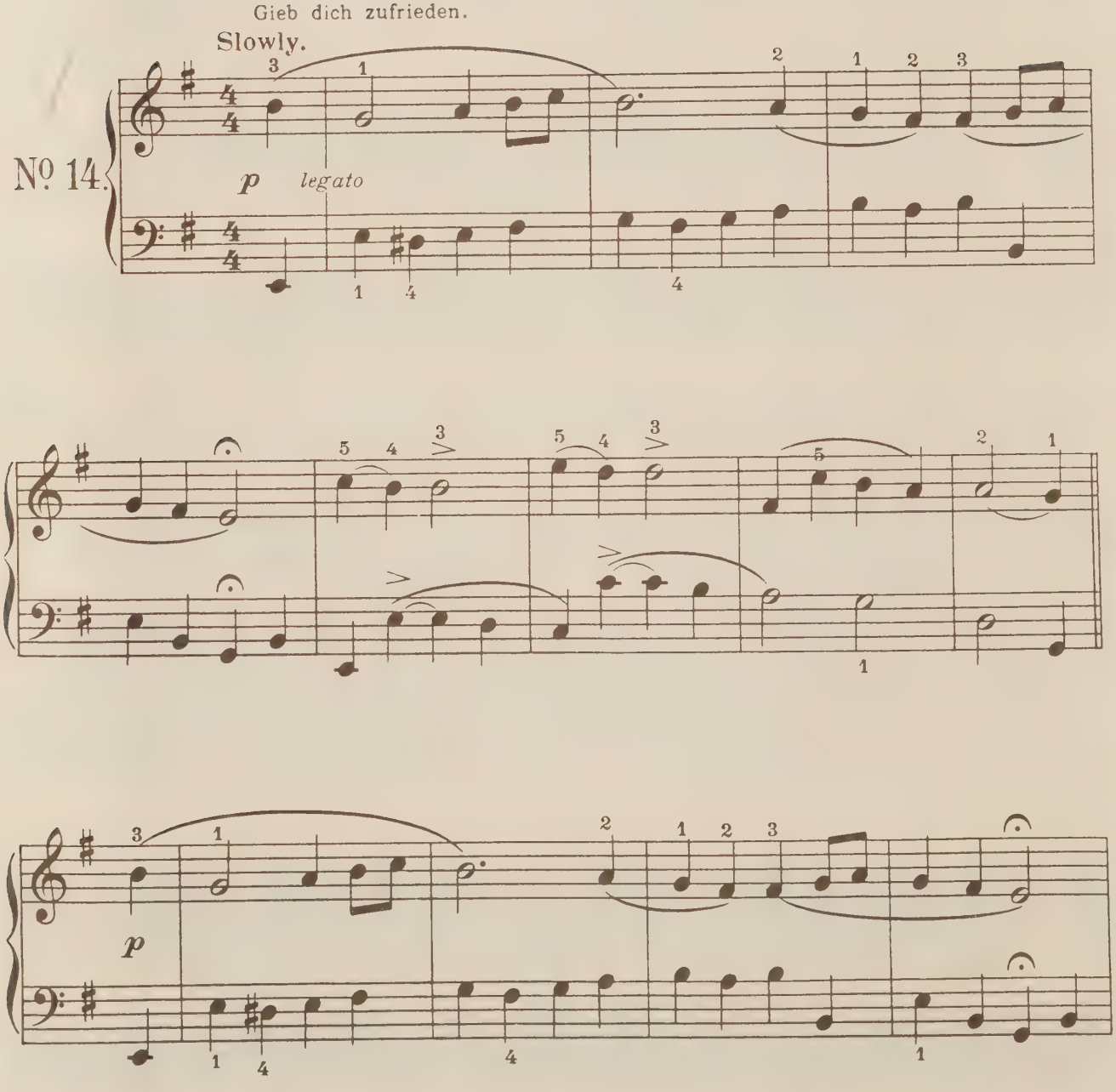



f
f

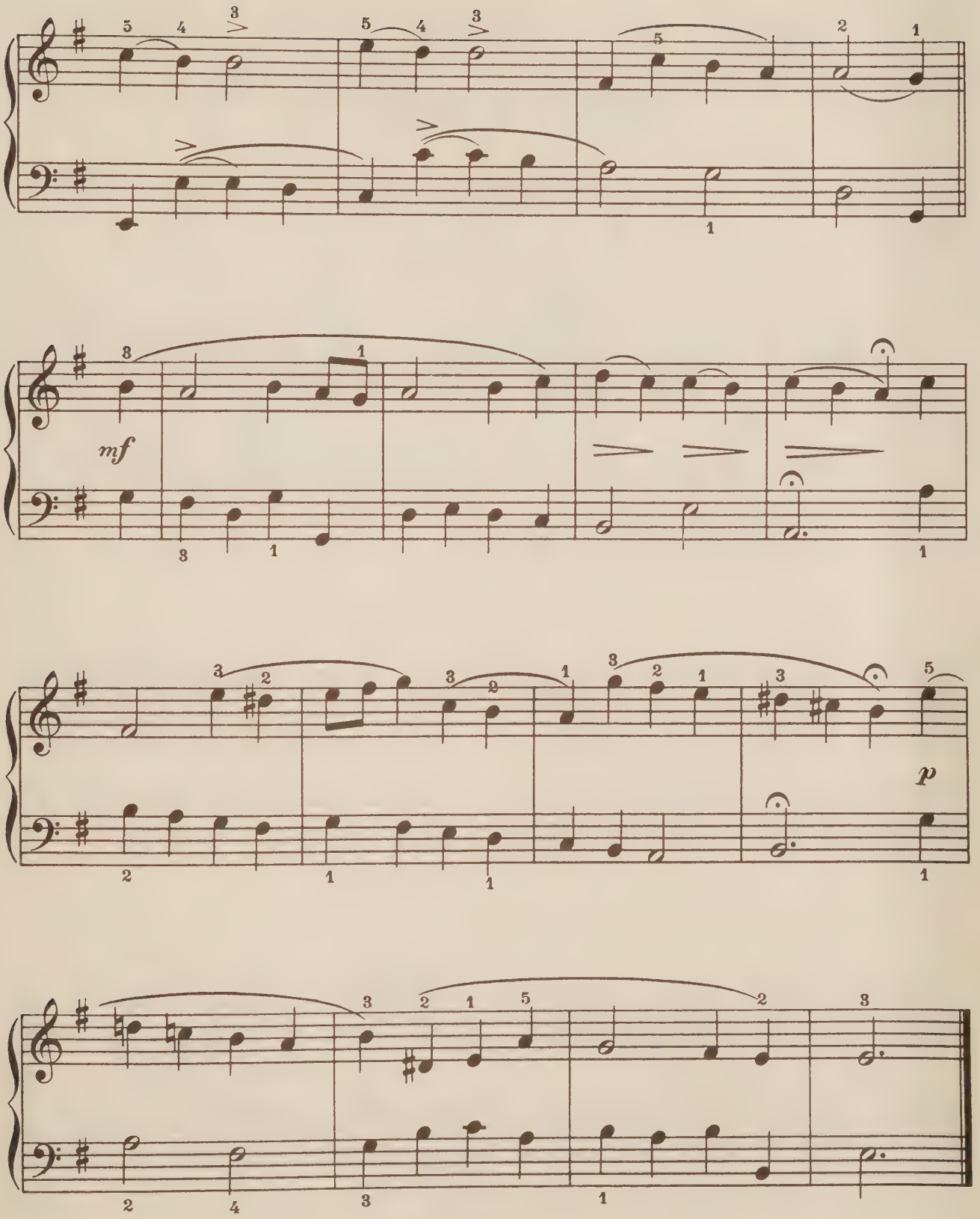
Chorale.

Gieb dich zufrieden.

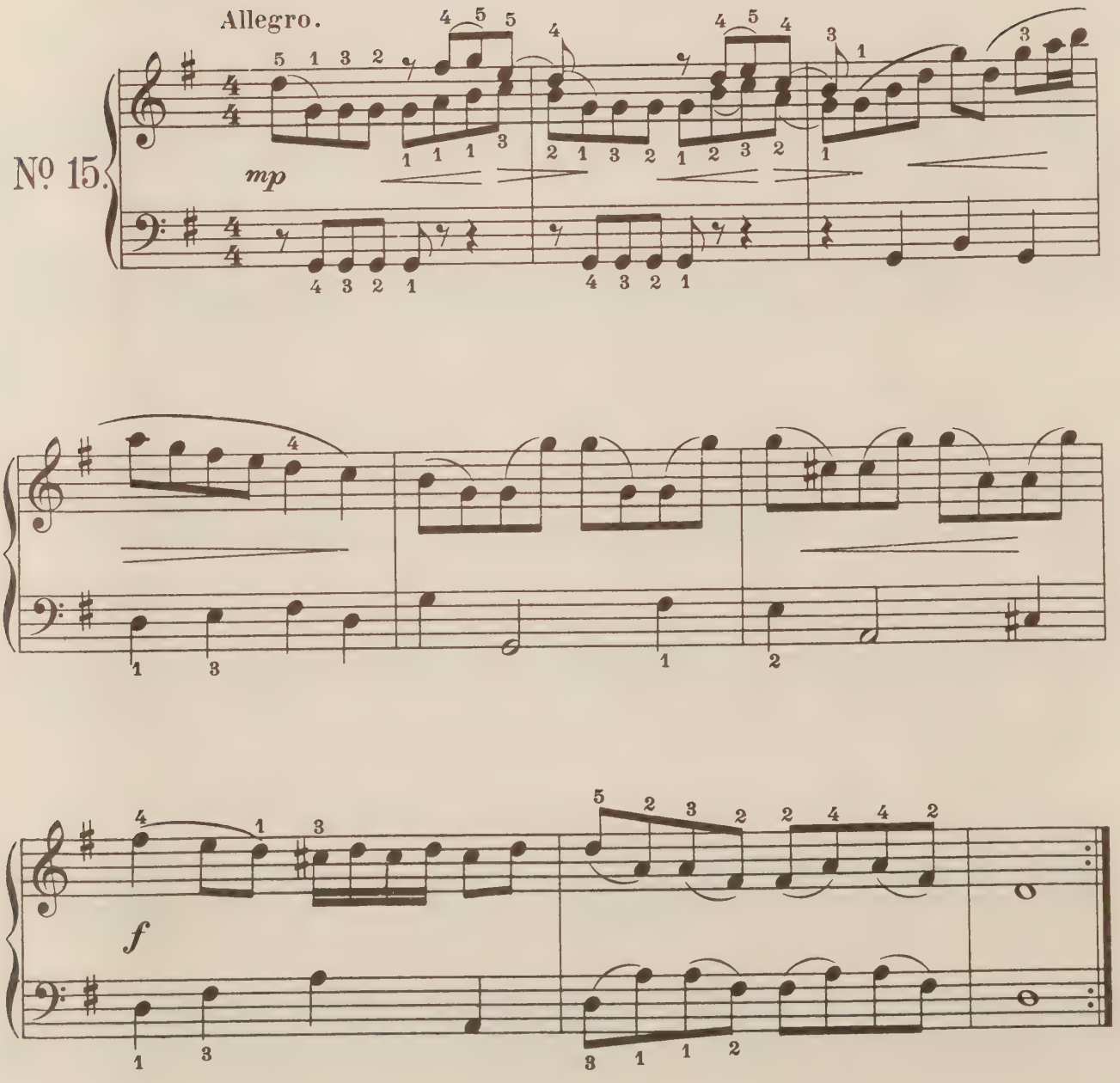
Slowly.

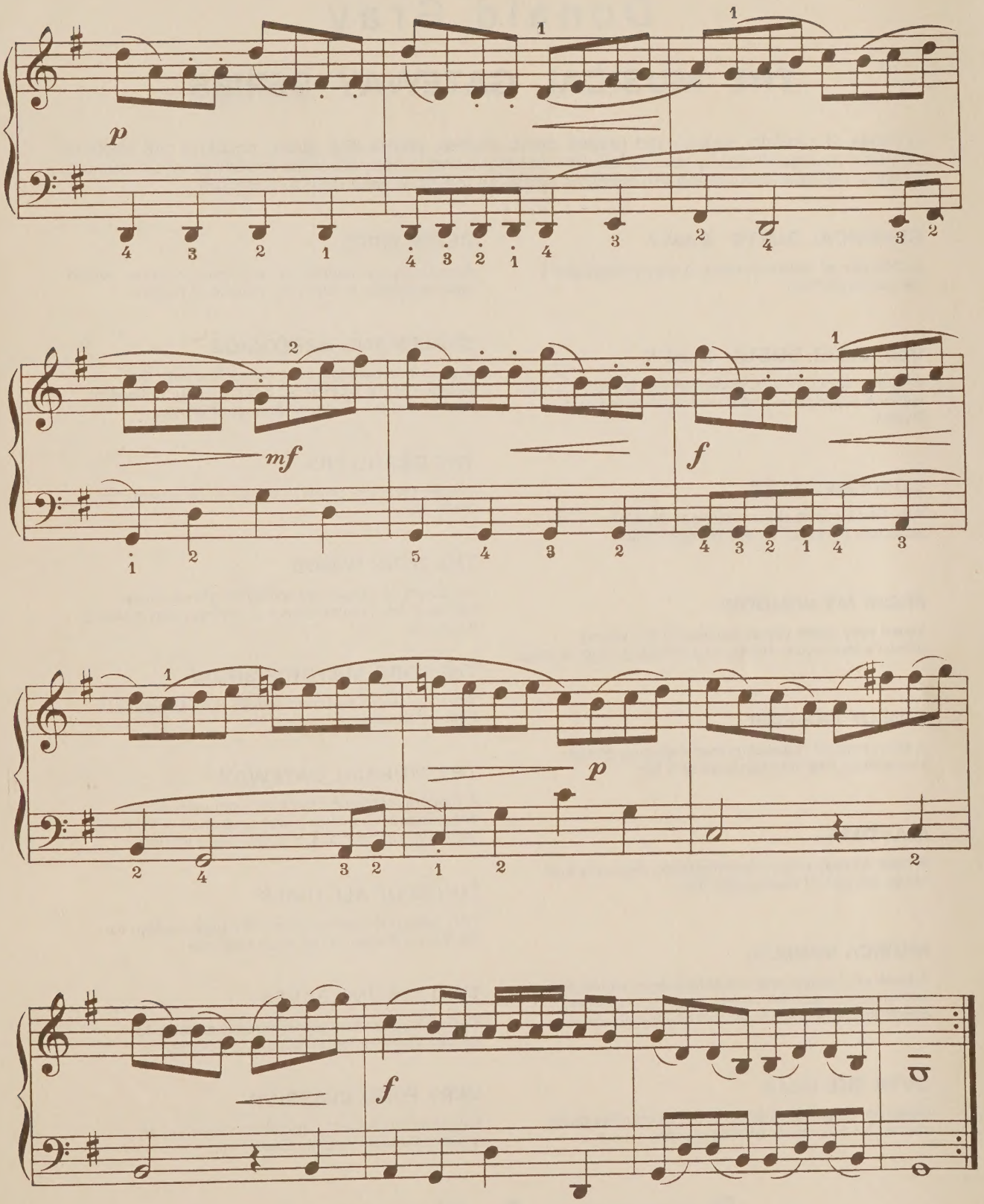


This favourite Chorale is said by Spitta to be "one of the most expressive melodies in existence." Other arrangements of it occur in the note book.


mf
p

March in G major.




p
mf
f
p
f

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